NEHEMIAH S. GLANC, ESQUIRE Attorney for Plaintiff 42 East 64th Street New York, New York 10065

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NSG 7264

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

AARON RICHARD GOLUB,

-----X Docket No.07 CIV-6308 (JGK) (ECF)

Plaintiff,

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT (Jury Trial Demanded)

-against-

TRANS UNION LLC and NATIONWIDE RECOVERY SYSTEMS, LTD.,

Defendants. ----X

Plaintiff AARON RICHARD GOLUB, by his attorney, NEHEMIAH S. GLANC, ESQUIRE as and for his complaint, alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff AARON RICHARD GOLUB is a consumer, within the definition of Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FRCA") 15 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1681a(c), and resides in the State of New York.
- 2. Defendant TRANS UNION LLC ("TU") is a consumerreporting agency, within the definition of 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f), and is incorporated in the State of Delaware, with its principal office located in Chicago, Illinois.

3. Defendant NATIONWIDE RECOVERY SYSTEMS, LTD.

("NRS") is a furnisher of consumer credit information within the meaning of, 15 U.S.C.A. § 1681 et seq., and is incorporated in the State of Delaware, with its principal office located in Carrollton, Texas.

JURISDICTION

4. This is an action for actual and punitive damages arising from defendants' negligent and wilful noncompliance with the provisions of the FRCA, specifically 15 U.S.C.A. § 1681 et seq., as is hereinafter more fully set forth. This court has jurisdiction of this action under 15 U.S.C.A. § 1681p without regard to the amount in controversy.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 5. The facts and circumstances underlying plaintiff's cause of action arise from a billing dispute in 2005 with Cingular Wireless Company, now known as AT&T Mobility LLC, and doing business as Cingular Wireless LLC ("CWC").
- 6. On or about February 1, 2005 plaintiff purchased a Motorola MOTORAZR V3 cellphone ("MOTORAZR V3") and entered into a contract with CWC for the provision of wireless telephone services for a term of one year.
- 7. Plaintiff was induced to leave his previous wireless telephone service provider, and enter into a one year contract with CWC for the provision of wireless telephone

service and purchase the MOTORAZR V3 based on CWC's unlawful deceptive acts and false advertising. CWC represented that CWC provided superior cellphone service, has and had fewer and/or no dropped calls, has and had fewer cellphone "deadzones", has and had superior customer service, and has and had broader coverage area than their competitors.

8. At the time plaintiff entered into his one year contract with CWC, CWC actively advertised and/or marketed itself as follows:

"America's largest Mobile to Mobile calling community with unlimited calling to over 50 million Cingular customers."

9. Furthermore, CWC represented that subscribers, such as plaintiff, would be members of:

"All on the ALLOVER" network, the largest digital voice and data network in America."

10. The representations made by CWC, its agents and representatives were false and fraudulent. In fact CWC's wireless telephone network provided inconsistent and effectively defective service without limitation and as a partial representative sample only, the following:

LOS ANGELES

October 28, 2005

- i. Beverly Glen and Comstock (Los Angeles), call failed;
- ii. 10600 Wilshire garage (Los Angeles), call cannot be completed as dialed;

- iii. 11:00 a.m. Speaker phone did not work;
- iv. error message "call cannot be completed as dialed";
- v. 12:50 p.m. Sunset before West Gower (Los Angeles) call cannot be completed as dialed;

November 1, 2005

- vi. 11:20 a.m. La Cienega and Cadillac(Los Angeles) call cannot be completed as dialed;
- vii. 11:25 a.m. La Cienega and La Tijera (Los Angeles) call cannot be completed as dialed (x2),11:27 a.m. Dialed 310-403-0976, Would not call out;
- viii.11:44 a.m. Vicksburg and 96th St. (Los Angeles) call cannot be completed as dialed;
- ix. No outgoing calls at all on La Cienega;
- x. Cut off speaking to 917-841-7976;
- xi. 11:45 a.m. same message;
- xii. 11:46 got through to 310-403-0976;
- xiii.12:40 p.m.110 Freeway, dialed 631-287-0041, call cannot be completed as dialed;
- xiv. dialed 212-752-3040, call cannot be completed as dialed;

NEW YORK CITY

November 2, 2005

- xv. 208 720 0300, 58th 62nd on Madison Ave, (New York City) called failed (twenty five times).
- 11. As a result of CWC's defective cellphone service, on or about November 2, 2005, plaintiff terminated his contract with CWC and demanded the immediate reimbursement of any and all monies paid by plaintiff to CWC from February 2005 to November

2005 which totaled \$2,326.48.

- 12. Between November, 2005 to March, 2006 plaintiff disputed CWC's attempts to collect on any alleged monies owed to CWC based on CWC's defective cellphone service.
- 13. On or about April 4, 2006, CWC contacted plaintiff via letter and admitted their liability for defective cellphone service and offered to settle all of plaintiff's claims by crediting plaintiff's CWC account in the amount of \$498.09, but refused to fully reimburse the \$2,326.48 paid by plaintiff to CWC between February 2005 to November 2005.
- 14. As part of CWC's proposed settlement, CWC offered to not report plaintiff's account as outstanding to credit agencies.
- 15. Plaintiff rejected CWC's offer of settlement because CWC's refusal to reimburse the \$2,326.48 paid by plaintiff to CWC.
- 16. On or about November 28, 2006 CWC placed plaintiff's account with a collection agency, defendant NRS.
- 17. Since on or about November, 2006, defendant NRS has been negligently and/or wilfully submitting inaccurate, misleading, and false reports concerning plaintiff and plaintiff's general creditworthiness to consumer credit reporting agencies throughout the United States, including without limitation defendant TU, which actions were not in

compliance with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.

- 18. Between April, 2006 and April 2007, plaintiff was completely unaware of the inaccurate and incomplete information NRS reported to TU and other credit reporting agencies.
- 19. In March 2007, plaintiff was solicited via telephone by a representative of CITIBANK to apply for the CITI Premier Elite Mastercard ("Card"). Plaintiff applied for and fully expected to receive the Card.
- 20. On April 3, 2007, CITIBANK rejected plaintiff for the Card, stating that its "credit decision was based, in whole or in part, on information obtained in a report" from defendant TU.
- 21. Plaintiff has been a customer of CITIBANK for over 10 years and prior to CITIBANK's receipt of the false and defamatory information alleged in the report from TU, plaintiff possessed impeccable credit.
- 22. Plaintiff made an immediate demand for the TU credit report ("Report"). On April 11, 2007 TU sent a copy of the Report to plaintiff.
- 23. Upon receipt of the Report plaintiff discovered that NRS had reported inaccurate and incomplete information concerning an alleged debt owed by plaintiff to CWC.
- 24. NRS reported an "open account" that had been "placed for collection" in the amount of \$558.00 allegedly owed

by plaintiff to CWC. The alleged "open account" was and continues to be disputed by plaintiff due to CWC's defective wireless telephone service. NRS willfully and/or negligently failed to include a statement that plaintiff disputed the alleged debt in its report to TU.

- 25. The information provided by NRS is false and defamatory and NRS and/or its representatives knew that the information was false when NRS reported the information to TU for inclusion in TU's credit report concerning plaintiff.
- 26. The information was reported by NRS willfully and/or maliciously and in wanton and reckless disregard of the truth and/or veracity of the same and with the intent to cause injury to plaintiff's good name, reputation and credit.
- 27. Upon discovering that certain items of information in TU's Report pertaining to plaintiff were incomplete and inaccurate, plaintiff immediately notified TU concerning the errors and omissions in the Report.
- 28. On May 8, 2007, plaintiff notified TU via regular and registered mail with return receipt requested concerning the disputed account allegedly owed by plaintiff to NRS and CWC. Plaintiff provided full and complete information concerning the nature of his billing dispute with CWC and NRS.
- 29. Upon notification by plaintiff concerning the disputed account allegedly owed to NRS, TU was under an

obligation pursuant to <u>15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b)</u> to notify NRS of plaintiff's dispute and to conduct a full and complete investigation into the disputed account.

- 30. On or about May 17, 2007 a TU notified plaintiff via telephone that it had "verified" the debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff to NRS. TU would not provide the particulars of its investigation nor would TU's representative provide the particulars of any information provided by NRS that supports NRS's alleged verification of the alleged debt.
- 31. On or about May 17, 2007, TU issued a new credit report to plaintiff which included the results of TU's reinvestigation concerning the disputed account reported by NRS. Despite the fact that plaintiff provided information documenting the full and complete history of plaintiff's billing dispute with NRS and CWC, TU negligently and/or willfully refused to delete the inaccurate and incomplete information. Furthermore TU negligently and/or willfully failed to include a statement that the item was disputed, contrary to the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681i(a); 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(a) and (b).
- 32. NRS has failed and refused to correct the incomplete information submitted to consumer credit reporting agencies, including TU.
- 33. NRS and TU have and had an affirmative duty to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation of disputed information in

a consumer credit report upon notification.

34. As a result of defendants' failure to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation of the disputed item in plaintiff's consumer credit report, plaintiff has and continues to be damaged. Plaintiff is a high networth individual and the negative credit report issued by defendants has irreparably harmed plaintiff's good name, reputation and credit.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENT NONCOMPLIANCE WITH 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) against defendants NRS and TU pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681o)

- 35. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 36. On May 8, 2007, plaintiff notified TU concerning the disputed debt allegedly owed to defendant NRS.
- 37. 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) imposes an affirmative duty on NRS to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation of any item reported to a consumer reporting agency, such as TU, once it receives notice that an item reported to a consumer reporting agency is disputed.
- 38. Upon receipt of plaintiff's notice, TU has and had a duty to notify NRS concerning plaintiff's dispute and TU has and had a duty to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation concerning the disputed NRS account.
- 39. NRS has and had a duty to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation concerning plaintiff's dispute upon receiving

notice of the dispute from TU.

- 40. TU negligently failed to comply with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) by not conducting a reasonable reinvestigation into plaintiff's dispute with NRS after receiving notification that the alleged debt to NRS and the underlying creditor CWC was the result of a billing dispute due to defective wireless service.
- 41. NRS negligently failed to comply with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) by not conducting a reasonable reinvestigation into the alleged debt owed by plaintiff. NRS received notice from TU concerning the underlying nature of the alleged debt to CWC but refused to delete the disputed item from plaintiff's credit report.
- 42. As a result of TU and NRS's negligent noncompliance with the requirements of the FCRA, plaintiff has suffered damages due to mental anguish, damage to reputation, embarrassment, humiliation and delay in obtaining credit in an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (WILFUL NONCOMPLIANCE WITH 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) against defendant TU pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n)

- 43. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
 - 44. Plaintiff notified TU concerning the disputed

debt allegedly owed to defendant NRS and provided information concerning the nature of the dispute.

- 45. TU has and had a duty to report any inaccuracies and/or incompleteness concerning plaintiff's credit. TU failed to report the full and complete nature of plaintiff's dispute concerning the alleged debt owed to NRS and CWC despite due notice from plaintiff
- 46. TU's wilful noncompliance subjects TU to liability for punitive damages as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. Plaintiff claims punitive damages in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- 47. As a result of TU's wilful noncompliance plaintiff has suffered damages due to mental anguish, damage to reputation, embarrassment, humiliation and delay in obtaining credit in an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (WILFUL NONCOMPLIANCE WITH 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b)against defendant NRS pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n)

- 48. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 49. NRS wilfully failed to comply with the requirements of <u>15 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1681s-2(b)</u> by failing and/or refusing to remove the disputed item after receiving due notice of plaintiff's dispute from TU.

- 50. NRS wilfully failed to comply with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) by failing and/or refusing to report the disputed item as disputed as required by FRCA 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. after receiving due notice of plaintiff's dispute from TU that the alleged debt to NRS and CWC was the result of a billing dispute due to defective wireless service.
- 51. NRS's wilful noncompliance subjects NRS to liability for punitive damages as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. Plaintiff claims punitive damages in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- 52. As a result of NRS's wilful noncompliance plaintiff has suffered damages due to mental anguish, damage to reputation, embarrassment, humiliation and delay in obtaining credit in an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(WILFUL AND/OR NEGLIGENT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT IN VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1681n and 15 U.S.C. § 1681o against defendant NRS)

- 53. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 54. Subsequent to being notified by TU of plaintiff's dispute concerning the contents of his Report NRS has been wilfully and/or negligently submitting inaccurate, misleading, and incomplete reports concerning plaintiff's general credit

worthiness to consumer credit reporting agencies, including without limitation, defendant TU. NRS's actions wilfully and/or negligently failed to comply with the requirements of FCRA 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., which requires that NRS adopt reasonable procedures for meeting the needs of commerce for consumer credit, personnel, insurance, and other information in a manner which is fair and equitable to the consumer with regard to the confidentiality, accuracy, relevancy and proper utilization of such information.

- 55. As a result of NRS's wilful and/or negligent noncompliance with the requirements of the FCRA plaintiff has suffered damages due to mental anguish, damage to reputation, embarrassment, humiliation and delay in obtaining credit in an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- 56. NRS's wilful noncompliance subjects NRS to liability for punitive damages as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. Plaintiff claims punitive damages in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(WILFUL AND/OR NEGLIGENT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT IN VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1681n and 15 U.S.C. § 1681o against TU)

- 57. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
 - 58. TU wilfully and/or negligently failed to comply

with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) by failing to have a reasonable procedure in place to re-investigate disputes concerning inaccurate and incomplete information that is furnished to a consumer reporting agency.

- 59. TU is a consumer-reporting agency within the definition of 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f). As a consumer reporting agency, TU regularly and for a fee submits reports containing information as to creditworthiness, credit standings, and other credit information on consumers to third parties, which information is used or expected to be used in whole or in part as a factor in establishing the consumer's eligibility for credit or insurance to be used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 60. TU was notified by plaintiff concerning a disputed account and TU negligently failed to conduct a reasonable reinvestigation of the disputed item.
- 61. TU has and had a duty under 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) to adopt reasonable procedures to assure that the information it supplied to third parties on consumers was fair and equitable to the consumer with regard to the accuracy and relevancy of such information.
- 62. Due to TU's wilful and/or negligent failure to prepare its consumer reports, plaintiff was delayed in obtaining credit which resulted in his reputation being irreparably

damaged due to the inaccurate information found in the Report.

- 63. As a result of TU's wilful and/or negligent noncompliance with the requirements of the FCRA, plaintiff has suffered damages due to mental anguish, damage to reputation, embarrassment, humiliation and delay in obtaining credit in an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- 64. TU's wilful noncompliance subjects TU to liability for punitive damages as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. Plaintiff claims punitive damages in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Credit Defamation against NRS and TU)

- 65. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 66. On or about March, 2007, plaintiff was solicited by CITIBANK to apply for the Card. Plaintiff applied and fully expected to receive the Card.
- 67. Plaintiff was denied the Card in whole or in part due to information reported by NRS to TU prior to receiving notice of the disputed item from TU.
- 68. NRS and TU reported an open account subject to collection by a collection agency in the amount of \$558.00 allegedly owed by plaintiff to defendant CWC, which plaintiff has disputed since November 2006 due to CWC's defective wireless

services.

- 69. The information provided by NRS and/or TU is false and defamatory and NRS and/or TU and/or their representatives knew that the information was false when NRS reported the information to TU for inclusion in TU's credit report concerning plaintiff.
- 70. The information was reported by NRS and/or TU willfully, maliciously and in wanton and reckless disregard of the truth and veracity of the same and with the intent to injure plaintiff's good name, reputation and credit.
- 71. The information was reported by NRS and/or TU without adequate investigation or inquiry first being made to determine the truthfulness of the information reported.
- 72. As a result of NRS's and/or TU's false and defamatory statements being reported to TU and/or from TU to others, plaintiff has been injured in his good name and reputation and has been unduly delayed in obtaining credit. Furthermore, as a result of NRS's and/or TU's false and defamatory statements plaintiff has been forced to spend time and effort to repair his reputation and thereby suffered damages in amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants as follows:

- (a) On the First Cause of Action, against TU and NRS jointly and severally for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon;
- (b) On the Second Cause of Action, against TU, for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon and punitive damages of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00);
- (c) On the Third Cause of Action, against NRS, for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon and punitive damages of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- (d) On the Fourth Cause of Action, against NRS, for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon and punitive damages of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- (e) On the Fifth Cause of Action, against TU, for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon and punitive damages of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

- (f) On the Sixth Cause of Action, against NRS and TU jointly and severally, for an amount to be determined at trial but believed to be in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) plus appropriate interest thereon.
- (g) Granting to the plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court shall deem just and proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and reasonable attorney's fees.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a jury for all claims stated herein.

Dated: New York, New York October 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

S/NEHEMIAH S. GLANC

NEHEMIAH S. GLANC, ESQUIRE Attorney for Plaintiff

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NSG 7264

Office and Post Office Address

Nehemiah S. Glanc, Esquire,

42 East 64th Street

New York, New York 10065

Attorney for

Yours, etc.

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Attorney(s) for

settlement to the Hon.

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PLEASE take notice that an order

----NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

Attorney(s) for

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New York, New York 10065

Yours, etc.

Attorney for

Office and Post Office Address

Nehemiah S. Glanc, Esquire, 42 East 64th Street

Dated,

court on

duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named PLEASE take notice that the within is a (certified) true copy ---NOTICE OF ENTRY----Index No. 07- CIV-6308 (JGK) (ECF) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT Year

AARON RICHARD GOLUB,

RECOVERY SYSTEMS, LTD., TRANS UNION LLC and NATIONWIDE

Defendants.

Print name beneath
NEHEMIAH S. GLANC

Office and Post Office Address, Telephone Nehemiah S. Glanc, Esquire, 42 East 64th Street

212-838-4811

To

Attorney(s) for

Service of copy of the within is hereby admitted

Attorney(s) for

-against-

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT SUMMONS AND

Signature (Rule 130-1.1-a)

Attorney for

New York, New York 10065

Dated